

APPLICANT(S): MERON, Gavriel (et al)

SERIAL NO.: 10/046,541

FILED: January 16, 2002

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REMARKS

The present Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 51-71 are pending in the application. Claims 1-50 were previously cancelled. Claims 51, 61 and 63 have been amended. The amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants would like to thank Examiner William Jung for the courtesy of the telephonic interview with Caleb Pollack, Reg. No. 37912, Yuanmin Cai, an associate of Mr. Pollack, and Rachel Bentov, a representative of the Applicants on September 27, 2005.

During the interview, the Applicants' representatives proposed an amendment which the Examiner indicated would overcome the prior art rejections of record, particularly rejections based on Alfano (US 6,240,312) and Marshall (US 6,800,060). The above amendments to independent claims 51, 61 and 63, and previously presented independent claim 68, fully reflect this amendment.

Remarks to the Double Patenting Rejection

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 51-71 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over co-pending Application No. US2003/0117491A1.

The present application and Application No. US2003/0117491A1 (serial number 10/202,608) are assigned to and commonly owned by the same assignee. Applicants are concurrently filing a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321(c) to overcome this provisional double patenting rejection, should Application No. US2003/0117491A1 be issued as a patent.

Therefore, Applicants request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

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Remarks to Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 51-71 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Alfano in view of Marshall.

During the September 27, 2005 telephonic interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representatives agreed on amendments which the Examiner indicated would overcome the prior art rejections of record.

Amended independent claim 51 includes, inter alia, "a plurality of optical windows behind each of which are positioned, at least, an illumination source and an imager". Amended independent claim 61 includes, inter alia, "at least one imager and illumination source behind each of the plurality of optical windows". Amended independent claim 63 includes, inter alia, "there being behind each optical window at least an imager and an illumination source". Previously presented independent claim 68 includes, inter alia, "a plurality of optical domes, behind each of which are positioned an illumination source and an imager". As discussed during the telephonic interview, these limitations are not found in the prior art references of record, particularly by Alfano and Marshall, alone or in combination. Therefore, claims 51, 61, 63 and 68 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 52-60 depend from claim 51, claim 62 depends from claim 61, claims 64-67 depend from claim 63, and claims 69-71 depend from claim 68. As discussed above, claims 51, 61, 63 and 68 are patentable. Therefore, claims 52-60, 62, 64-67, and 69-71 are patentable for at least the reasons as discussed above with regard to claims 51, 61, 63 and 68.

Applicants respectfully request that rejections of claims 51-71 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that upon reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner will appreciate that the changes in the claims relate to subject matter already within the scope of the searches and discussions to date and that entry of these amendments will not require additional searches and will not impose any additional burden on the Examiner.

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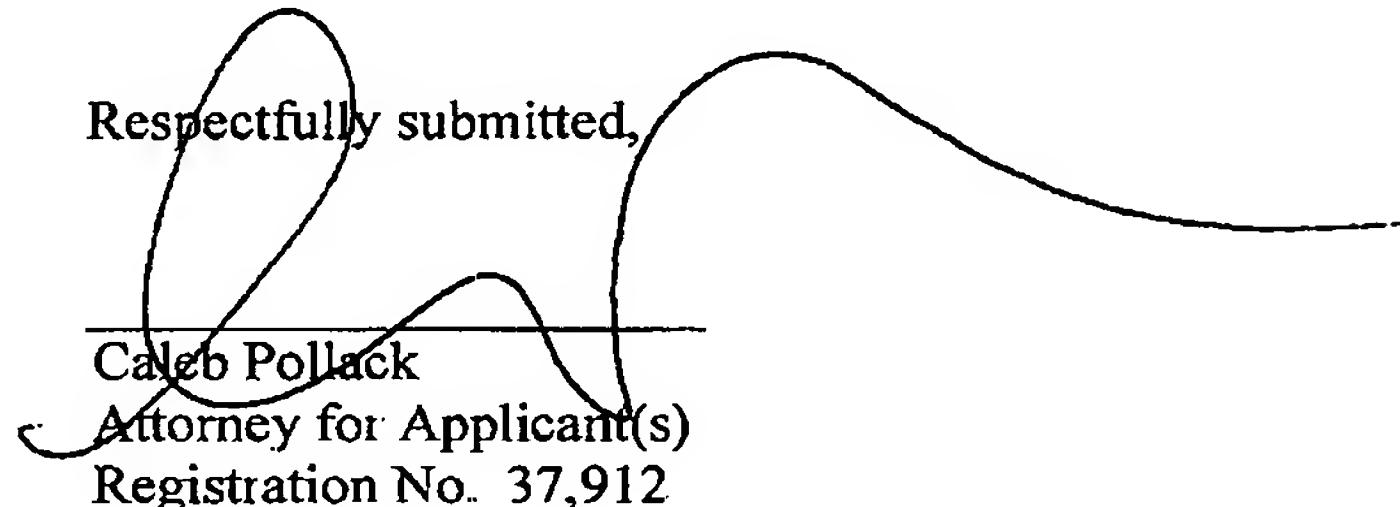
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In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants are paying fees for the Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and the petition for a two-month extension of time, separately.

No other fees are believed to be due associated with this paper. However, if any such fees are due, please charge any such fees to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

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